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Carson J. Robison Correspondence

Carson J. Robison, the Cowboy Radio Singer,  
1903-1988

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2015-01-01

### Letter, 1951 August 2, from Otto A. Harbach to Writer Members

Otto A. Harbach

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COMPOSERS, AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS

575 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK 22, N. Y.



August 2, 1951

No. . . . 6083

TO ALL WRITER MEMBERS

With the new system of writer distribution, it has been necessary to make an apportionment of performance credits among the composers and authors of compositions written by more than one writer.

It has been our practice to follow the credits as given in the copyright entry, crediting the composer or composers collectively with 50% of the writer share; and crediting the writer or writers of the lyric collectively with the remaining 50% of the writer share. For example, if one writer is listed as the composer of the music and two as the writers of the lyrics, credits have been allocated on the basis of 50% to the composer and 25% to each of the two lyric writers.

Some of the members have pointed out that very often the information on the copyright cards does not coincide with the understanding between the writers as to their relative participations.

In order that the members may know the basis upon which division is being made, the Writers Classification Committee has instructed me to advise the members of the rules which we will follow, namely:

(1) In the absence of other factors which will be pointed out below, we shall continue to follow the practice of dividing credits in accordance with the entries on the copyright cards: viz, 50% to the composer or composers of the music collectively, to be distributed equally between them, and 50% to the writer or writers of the lyric collectively, to be distributed equally between them.

(2) If the writers of a composition agree between themselves to share performance royalties on any basis other than that indicated by the copyright card, the Society will abide by instructions received from all the collaborators.

(3) If the contract between the writers themselves or between the writers and the publisher, provides for some other distribution than that indicated by the copyright card, then upon the contract or an appropriate excerpt therefrom being filed with the Society, the division provided for in such contract will be followed.

(4) If there is no written contract between the writers and publisher as provided in No. (3) above, but the royalty statements show a division other than that indicated on the copyright cards, then upon such facts being brought to our attention, the division indicated by the royalty statements will be followed.

Sincerely yours,

OTTO A. HARBACH,  
President.

H/fs